



**Luke A. Bronin**  
**Mayor**

March 29, 2018

Dear Chairmen Winfield and Formica, Chairwoman Reed, Ranking Member Ackert, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 9, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future. I represent a city that has worked diligently to advance a clean energy future by establishing one of the state's only Energy Improvement Districts, adopting a citywide Climate Action Plan, building the first public-private microgrid in Connecticut, creating infrastructure for electric vehicles, and investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy in public buildings. These efforts aim to advance our City's goal, as stated in our Climate Action Plan, of "Cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy that reduces the likelihood of power outages during storms, creates green jobs, reduces fossil fuel dependence, and cuts energy costs for all." I know that is a goal that is shared by this committee.

I support many of the provisions of S.B. 9, including its support for the CT Green Bank. However, I believe that additional changes should be made to ensure that S.B. 9 does not unintentionally impede progress toward our clean energy goals. Specifically, I suggest changes to provisions on: (1) the renewable portfolio standard, (2) net metering, (3) solar production caps, (4) shared solar, and (5) the solar tariff process.

(1) Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS): I strongly support the proposed extension and increase to Connecticut's RPS. I urge the committee to reconsider provisions that allow suppliers and electric distribution companies to opt out of compliance with the RPS or pay a reduced alternative compliance payment.

(2) Net Metering: I oppose the elimination of net metering, which benefits our residents and also supports the state's solar industry. I appreciate recent revisions to S.B. 9 that restored some options for net metering, but I strongly encourage the committee to guarantee net metering for all solar sectors – at least until an appropriate tariff is set. Similarly, I am concerned about the negative impact of the immediate expiration of the LREC and ZREC programs, which have supported public and private projects all around our state, including Hartford. Allowing these programs to expire without having an alternative in place will impede renewable energy development.

(3) Solar Production Caps: I oppose any caps on renewable energy production. Such caps are especially unnecessary if tariffs that appropriately value solar are created through the PURA process anticipated by this legislation.

(4) Shared Solar: I applaud the inclusion of shared solar in Section 7. It is a good start, and, as I have testified before, shared solar is important to cities like Hartford for many reasons. However, I believe this

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legislation could be strengthened by including greater detail about the mechanics of the shared solar program.

(5) Solar Tariff Process: I am concerned about the time it will take to set rates for solar through a tariff structure. Moreover, I hope that the tariffs will be set based on the true value of solar generation to our environment, to our communities, and to the resilience and reliability of the grid.

Thank you for accepting this testimony. Again, I support much of the language in this bill. Additional amendments to this bill will reduce energy costs, ensure that we reach our renewable portfolio standards, and help us create a cleaner Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Luke A. Bronin  
Mayor